

GATEWAY

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

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SABC reduces CCLR budget request \$5,985

By Elizabeth Merrill and Lori Safranek

The Student Activities Budget Commission (SABC) cut \$5,985 from the 1992-93 fiscal year budget request of the Council for Community and Legislative Relations (CCLR) Thursday.

SABC heard preliminary budget requests from CCLR, American Multicultural Students (AMS) and the Gateway.

CCLR Director Mark Vanevenhoven submitted a request for \$6,700 for trips to the United States Student Association Legislative Conference and the National Conference on Student Services. Both conferences are in Washington, D.C. Another conference slated for CCLR is the Grass Roots Organizing Weekend, which CCLR members will attend at the closest location possible, Vanevenhoven said.

SABC members reduced the request to \$1,000 for travel to

Lincoln and Kearney and told Vanevenhoven he and other agency directors would need to request travel funds from the Student Senate. The Senate provides money for these expenses from its contingency fund.

"I think it's poor budget planning," Vanevenhoven said in a later interview. "I know that the CCLR director should be represented at these conferences. It only makes fiscal sense to budget for them ahead of time."

Other reductions in the preliminary budget included \$225 in the postage line item. CCLR received \$400 in postage in 1991-92, which has not been spent. SABC members reduced the postage line because of the leftover funds.

Vanevenhoven said SABC was exhibiting a "use it or lose it mentality."

"Unfortunately, if that's the tack you guys want to take, then I'll spend every stinking dime next year," he said.

SABC approved the preliminary budget of \$5,654 for CCLR.

Marquita Hubbert, the newly appointed director of AMS, initially requested \$2,300 for travel and lodging. SABC approved a preliminary amount of \$1,000 for transportation and lodging for recruitment trips to area high schools and Native American reservations.

SABC approved a preliminary budget of \$8,326 for AMS.

The Gateway's funding is based on a per capita allotment of fund A student fees. SABC non-voting member Mary Reynolds proposed a \$.03 per student increase. After much debate, SABC approved the original \$1.67 per student request.

The Gateway's funding will not come up for review again until the 1994-95 fiscal year.

The next SABC meeting will be Thursday at 4 p.m. Final budgets will be approved at that time, and will be submitted to the Student Senate March 19.



Ah, go fly a kite!

UNO students John Dorrance and Diane Atkinson try to untangle an uncooperative kite string in the Pep Bowl Friday afternoon. The unseasonably warm weather over the past week has found many students with an early case of spring fever.

—Ed Carlson

Triplets receive tuition waiver

By Christine Johnson

Alissa, Alison and Aimee Rosenbaugh are going to college for free.

They are the first triplets to take advantage of a Nebraska state law which waives tuition for children and spouses of disabled veterans.

The law, statute 80.411, allows children and spouses of a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran to receive a waiver of tuition at any state university, said Erwin Klabunde, Douglas County Veterans' Service Officer.

"The Rosenbaughs are entitled to a tuition waiver due to the fact their father, Max Rosenbaugh, is considered a 100 percent service-connected veteran," Klabunde said. A 100 percent service-connected disability refers to a disability suffered while in service to the U.S. military.

Max Rosenbaugh served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and became paralyzed from multiple sclerosis. After learning about his veterans' benefits, Rosenbaugh applied for the benefits.

A year and a half later, he received confirmation that the state's Department of Veterans' Affairs considered him to be 100 percent ser-

vice-connected, Alissa said.

The triplets have until age 26 to complete their education.

"They also receive a stipend as long as they keep a certain grade point average," Klabunde said. The amount of the stipend varies according to how many credit hours they take.

Alissa, Aimee and Alison graduated from Millard South High School in 1989. Although they attended UNO during the fall of that year, Alison said she decided to take time off "to figure out what I wanted to do."

"We found good jobs and didn't really want to go to school," Alissa said. "But when we found out about the waiver, we decided to take advantage of it."

Alissa and Aimee are attending UNO this semester. They are undecided about their majors, but Alissa said she "was leaning toward accounting" and Aimee said she would like to major in exercise science.

Alison will attend UNO next fall. She plans on majoring in either physical therapy or nursing.

Alissa, Aimee and Alison agree on why they chose UNO. "It's close to home and family," Aimee said. "Besides, it's a great school."

Inside

- In the Area and Around the Nation — page 4
- Chancellor Weber, 'Man of the Year' — page 5
- A personal look at suicide — page 6
- Mavs go for broke — pages 9-11

Black studies makes 20-years

By Tim Rohwer

A black studies degree is as marketable as any other liberal arts degree, according to Ashton Welch, associate professor of history at Creighton University.

Welch was guest speaker at UNO's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the black studies department Friday. Welch spoke about the history of black studies programs and the benefits of a black studies degree.

Welch said students with a black studies or other liberal arts degree can find jobs in areas such as banking and medicine.

"One of the best undergraduate medical schools is Johns Hopkins. When I was there, the administrator said, 'We don't want scientists. Bring me your philosophy majors, your English majors.' I think you can also say, 'Bring me your black studies majors,'" Welch said.

Executive trainee positions in banks also are available for graduates with a liberal arts degree, including black studies, he added.

Welch's speech was part of a month-long series of events focusing on black culture, said George Garrison, chairman of UNO's black studies department.

"There was a serious void and a need for these departments. The black studies department at UNO was part of one of most important movements in this country," Garrison said.

The formation of black studies programs came during the post-World War II civil rights movement, Welch said.

"When we study the civil rights movement, we usually study in political terms — like the right to vote, the right to sit at the front of the bus. We should remember the educational movement as also a part of this," he said.

Welch said not all blacks were united for black studies programs on college campuses. Some believed it would be counterproductive to the cause of school integration, while others emphasized the futility of a black studies degree.

In time, black studies came to be an acceptable part of the academic landscape and paved the way for other programs, including those for women, Hispanics and Asian Americans, he said.

The growth of black studies programs at the nation's universities does not mean they are totally secure from financial cutbacks, Welch warned.

"As colleges react to declining finances, they'll have to reconstruct. Black studies are not immune to cutbacks."



—Ed Carlson

Ashton Welch, history professor at Creighton University, spoke at UNO Friday as part of the 20th anniversary of the black studies department.

LETTERS/OPINIONS

Dear Editor:

Lesson on quotas, affirmative action

Dear Editor:

Let me give you a little history lesson on quotas and affirmative action.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 created an Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC) without enforcement power. The Equal Opportunity Employment Act of 1972 was the result of a compromise in Congress. Three times earlier they had tried to reach a compromise to give the EEOC the power to close businesses that were breaking the discrimination laws.

The Senate also worked on a bill to give the EEOC cease-and-desist powers. It was put aside when a measure "embodying the direct court enforcement procedures" was forwarded.

Nixon signed it into law on March 24, 1972.

Just because George Schultz was Secretary of Labor in 1972 doesn't mean he proposed quotas.

So, where did the quotas come from in this legislation?

I didn't see that word mentioned in anything I read when researching Tara's allegation.

Again the attempts at historical revisionism are struck down.

The fear and ignorance of the radical feminist movement shows itself.

You shouldn't get a job (because you were discriminated (against) in the past.

Quotas cause more hate and fear than they solve.

If you don't believe that someone should get a job only because they are the most qualified, then are you not guilty of a civil rights violation yourself?

You have discriminated against someone based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Go figure.

Rich Rezek

UNO Student and Conserva-Tyrant

Homophobia no excuse for violence

Dear Editor:

What exactly did Kent Walton learn about dealing with people, as he claimed in his column (*Gateway*, Feb. 25)?

I hope he understands if he physically attacks people, be they "effeminate, gay, drunk" or otherwise, they can file assault charges.

That editorial has got to be the sickest item I have seen in this paper (and I am not a fan of Tara Muir).

The underlying motives of Walton's behavior are based in the same logic used for defendants in court cases concerning the murders and assaults of gays and lesbians; it's called the "homosexual panic" defense.

It goes something like this: "He felt my butt, I got nervous, and I stabbed him 26 times." This defense has been repeatedly discredited whenever it was used.

Walton does not need editorial space — he needs a therapist.

Jim Laferla

UNO Alumnus

Attendance at sports events low — Why?

By Lori Safranek

UNO athletes participate in dozens of games each semester, for which they put in literally hundreds of hours of practice. They also attend classes, hold jobs and take part in other campus activities.

When they're on the court or the track or the playing field, they represent UNO. The

A. "No. I just have other things to do. Between work and school, I don't really have time." — *Kelly Rose, sophomore*

A. "Ditto. I don't have time." — *Kim Bosak, sophomore*

A. "Oh, yeah. My wife and I have gone to the volleyball, basketball and football games." — *Bob Starman, graduate student*

A. "No. I really don't have time. Well, I've gone to a couple of the football games. Usually I've just been doing

other things." — *Rich Horan, senior*

A. "Sure. Football, wrestling, basketball, girls' softball, girls' volleyball. Those are just sports I enjoy. I live in the neighborhood so I just walk over. But not this year. I have a new job and I don't have time." — *Kelly Wanznerried, graduate student working on doctorate*

As with many things at UNO, the university's special status as a commuter campus may play a part in this issue. Many students just don't have time to attend sporting events.

On the other hand, it's an inexpensive way to spend an evening, and UNO's athletics would appreciate your support. So quit making excuses and treat yourself to a date with the Mavs.

UNO TALK UNO SPORTS

players work hard to win, which makes UNO look good.

One incentive for their hard work and dedication is the support of UNO students, staff and faculty.

UNO's athletic events are free to students with identification.

The players are classmates, friends and even relatives for some UNO students. So why don't more UNO students attend the games?

UNOTalk asked students on campus Sunday this question:

Have you ever attended athletic events at UNO? Why or why not?

A. "No, I really don't have the time." — *Shane Taylor, junior*

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE DRUG AWARENESS WEEK MARCH 2-9, 1992

MARCH 3:

In the Octagon, 1st floor MBSC, from 11:00-1:00 a video showing of "Death in the West" about the dangers of tobacco use with smoking demonstrations by Connie Marinovic. "Quizzes an Cream" ice cream give-away.

MARCH 4:

Same events as March 3 in the Octagon. "Satanic Worship and Occult Activity" seminar presented by Colleen Lever and Barb Smith B.S.. The seminar will be held in the Omaha Room, MBSC from 11:00-1:00pm. Health Services and Women's Resource Center will be sponsoring the event.

MARCH 5:

In the Octagon booth from 11:00-1:00pm, "Quizzes and Cream" ice cream give-away. Agency Representatives Don Gillespie from Omaha Counseling Associates, and Dennis Stubbs from St. Joseph Addiction Recovery Center will be here to provide information regarding the use of inhalants and LSD. Information will be available on the 0124 Risk Reduction Model.

GATEWAY

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THE GATEWAY:

TRAVELIN' ACROSS IOWA TO THE KUM AND GO.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Smart guy, that Del ...

Chancellor Del Weber has been named the 1992 "Man of the Year" by The Omaha Club. In a story this issue (see page 5), Weber downplays the designation, saying it is really an acknowledgment of the university, not of him. He said he could not do his job without the support of UNO's people — students, staff and faculty.

Although we don't know much about the selection process for being named "Man of the Year," we agree with The Omaha Club members. Weber has done an excellent job of advancing education at UNO. He has also been a pro-student chancellor.

In a Jan. 31 story in the *Gateway*, Speaker of

Omaha Club members based their selection on. (Weber is among some heady company — other "Men of the Year" selectees include Gerald Ford and Kay Orr.)

Sometimes the little things count more than those big accomplishments. What the *Gateway* staff bases it on is his willingness to listen to us, his willingness to answer our questions, and his willingness to take time for students.

He's not one of those administrators that shakes your hand at a meeting, tells you how much he appreciates your views as a student and then five minutes later looks at you like you've grown horns. No, he's the kind of guy who says, "Hi Heidi," everytime he sees you — even when you're not wearing a name tag!

This may sound kind of corny, but it meant something to us: Christmas of 1991, right

before our last issue came out, we held a pot luck dinner (which basically means our Moms made something for us to bring). Anyway, we, more out of whimsy and Christmas spirit than any real expectation that he would show up, invited Weber to our gathering.

He showed up. He had some of Heidi's Mom's chili, some of Deanne's Mom's cheese dip and some of Rosalie's Italian sausages. He balanced a plate on his knees and listened to us talk about our Christmas plans and the paper.

Then we proudly gave him a tour of the building and explained how we do our thing over here — then he went back to work.

It was pretty damn neat.

It wasn't like eating lunch with THE CHANCELLOR. He's down-to-earth. And that's why he'd suggest to a committee that they just drop the doubling of the fines — it ain't working, so stop doin' it.

Smart guy, that Del.

STAFF EDITORIAL DEL WEBER

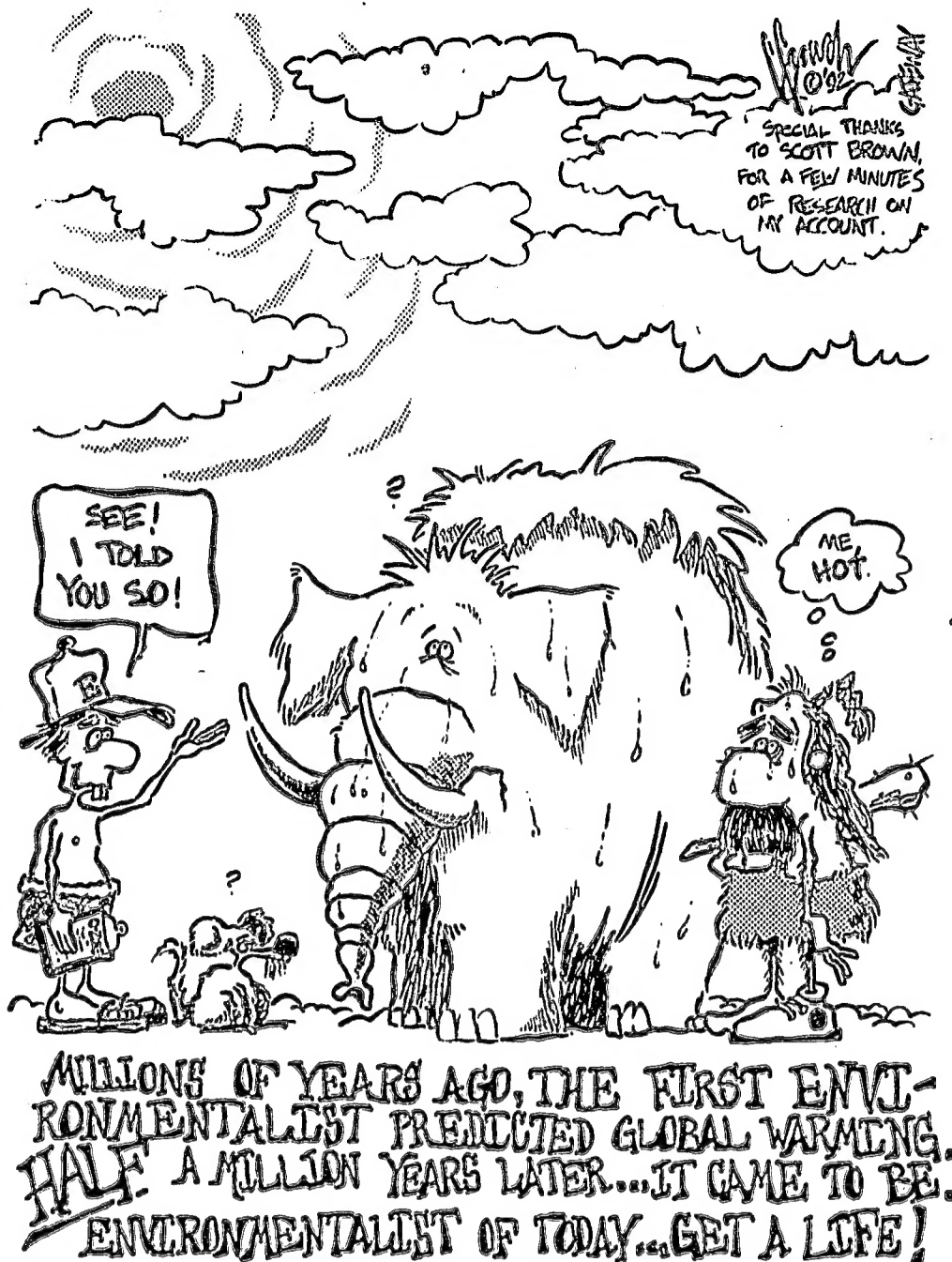
the Senate Andria Palmesano credited Weber with being the driving force behind the elimination of doubling parking fines.

"I'm personally grateful to him," Palmesano said in the article. "I don't think the faculty and staff members of the (Parking Advisory) committee would have ever dropped the doubling of the fines had he not mentioned it."

Weber had attended a meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee. When committee members asked his views on the issue, he said doubling of the fines "alienates the students and it is not a deterrent," according to Palmesano.

It did, however, make the university a lot of money. Weber didn't seem to care. He just saw that it wasn't deterring us from not paying fines, and it was aggravating an already bad situation. Good old common sense.

We're sure Weber has many accomplishments, both professionally and personally, of which he is proud. These are probably what the



Short 'n simple

Conserva-tyrants, carpe diem!

Today's column will be blank. For those of you who have expressed the opinion that my column should be blank, and since you flatter me so by using the names with which I label you, today I thank you for the flattery and enthusiastically entertain your suggestions.

I realize I must thank you before I lose the opportunity.

The real reason my column is blank is in

thoughts in this space and send them to me at the *Gateway*.

Go ahead. Tomorrow may steal your opportunities.

Carpe diem.

TO THE LEFT WITH TARA MUIR

memory of my father, Jackson M. Muir, who died Monday, Feb. 24. Many of the opportunities to thank him were lost that day.

Conserva-tyrants, you have him to thank for helping raise me into the devout liberal and free thinker I am. He never channelled me into any role, but simply said, "Do your best." Or, in many instances where the soccer tournament wasn't won or my horse and I didn't get the blue ribbon, he simply said, "You did your best."

Think of the possibilities of this blank space in "To The Left"! You could grab a pen and practice writing the words "liberal" or "feminist". Admitting openly you believe in equal rights and concern for all of humanity instead of the attitude "What's in it for me?" brings peace of mind — don't you agree?

Go ahead. No one is watching you but my father, and I'm sure he's having a good laugh.

Go ahead. Pretend you care about the world and all the individuals who are the most important ingredients. Pretend you're a liberal for a few moments — write down your

Gulf not Vietnam

Jeff Hults either doesn't know his '60s from his '90s, or he has been living in a time warp.

In his Feb. 28 column he compares the student dissension during Desert Storm to the protests during Vietnam.

To borrow his own analogy, Hults, like Oliver Stone, has managed to "fuse fact and fiction for emphasis — a la 'JFK.'"

The fact is, the protests during Desert Storm were nothing more than a laughable attempt by a handful of wanna-be hippies to drum up contempt toward the government during a war that in no way resembled Vietnam.

The fiction is, they were successful.

By the time of the great student uprisings at Kent State and Berkeley, American involvement in Southeast Asia had been going on for almost a decade, countless people had died, and not an inch of ground had been gained.

In contrast, the Iraqis invaded a peaceful nation in August, and by August of the next year, Kuwait was freed from Iraqi forces and the majority of our troops were home, with a minimal number of casualties.

What Hults refers to as a "backlash of resentment" and an "unexpected wave of support" comparable to a "runaway freight train" were nothing more than a quiet ripple that faded away with the media hype.

If Hults believes the dissenters actually "countered" our government and "threw a wrench" into President Bush's plans, he must have spent the war on a bad acid trip.

When impotent, neo-radicals like Youth For Peace (this is the same band of peacenik wanna-be's who brought us such absurdities as the infamous 1991 Columbus Day Protest) held their great rallies, the 30 or so representatives trying to speak out were usually overwhelmed

by the hundreds who supported the war.

During Desert Storm, more than 80 percent of the American population believed in and supported the military's involvement in the Middle East — not exactly what I'd call a "runaway train" of support for the dissenters.

Also, George Bush might be faltering in the polls now, but the number of people who still believe in what we accomplished last year hasn't changed much from the original figures.

As for the 20 percent who opposed the war,

TO THE RIGHT WITH KENT WALTON

I don't think our government gave them any more than a second scoff since the fighting went on as scheduled.

After I picked myself up off the floor (I hyperventilated from laughing so hard) to read the rest of Hults' illusions, I also noticed he referred to the period during Desert Storm as a "'60s without drugs."

The turbulent '60s were an entire decade when revolutionary fervor often led to state governments calling out the National Guard to control truly radical college students.

Desert Shield/Desert Storm lasted as long as a human pregnancy — the protests and rallies could've been controlled by a Girl Scout Troop.

And I won't even waste space commenting on the "without drugs" portion of his analogy.

Hults should do his readers a favor and go back to his old topics that he knows something about. He obviously has no understanding of what is going on in the real world.

But what do you expect from a guy who had to steal his column title from a real journalist like Hunter S. Thompson?

NEWS CLIPS

Reception honors employee's retirement

All faculty and staff are invited to attend a retirement reception for Ronald Pullen Friday. The reception will take place at 2:30 p.m. in Dining Rooms A, B and C of the Student Center.

Enrollment is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 595-2308.

Archaeology Club shows 'Raiders'

UNO's Archaeology Club will show "Raiders of the Lost Ark" Saturday at the Religion Center. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. and a discussion will follow. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Richard Freund at 554-2628.

Group offers sharing for adult students

Adult students who want to meet and share experiences now can do so.

The Gallery Room of the Student Center will be reserved Thursdays from 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. so that adult students can get together. For more information, call Debbie Burchard at 554-2458.

Amnesty International offers fellowships

Applications are being accepted for Amnesty International's Ralph J. Bunche fellowship.

The program begins in September and runs through the end of June 1993. Following an intensive training, Bunche fellows are assigned to human rights projects in one of Amnesty International's offices in the United States.

These projects may include organizing in minority communities, coordinating work against the death penalty, working for protection of refugees and assisting with outreach to the minority press.

Fellows are expected to work 40 hours a

week, and are provided with a stipend and travel expenses.

The program is open to activists of any age who are of African-American, Native American, Latino, Asian or Arab descent. Qualifications include a strong academic record, good communication skills and experience in civil rights or human rights work. Deadline for applications is March 31.

For more information contact Amnesty International, 53 W. Jackson, Suite 1162, Chicago IL 60604, or call (312) 427-2060.

Air Force needs good medical professionals

The Air Force Medical Service has openings for all health professional specialties, such as allied health, veterinarians, nurses and physicians. Scholarships for students planning to attend medical school also are available.

For more information, call collect (515) 226-0655.

IN THE AREA ...

Register now for beginning algebra

Registration for beginning algebra classes for summer 1992 starts this month.

The non-credit class prepares students for math 1310 and a math placement exam is given at the end of the course.

Professor hopes to shed light on Lizzie Borden case

FALL RIVER, Mass. (CPS) — A George Washington University professor is trying to unearth whether Lizzie Borden, star of one of the country's most celebrated mysteries, really did kill her parents with an ax nearly a century ago.

James E. Starrs, a law and forensics professor, is using ground-penetrating radar to try to find the skulls of Borden's parents in the cemetery where family members were buried. Starrs hopes to exhume the skulls after he finds them, with the ultimate goal of shedding some light on whether or not Borden really did commit the murders of her parents.

Borden, 32, a Sunday school teacher, was acquitted of the crime on June 30, 1893, but popular jingles always claimed otherwise — "Lizzie Borden took an ax and gave her mother 40 whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave her father 41."

Starrs hopes to have concrete findings ready for an Aug. 4 conference marking the 100th anniversary of the crime — Andrew and Abby Gray Borden, actually Lizzie's stepmother, were killed on Aug. 4, 1892 in their home.

University rejects condom machines in residence halls

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (CPS) — Middle Tennessee State University administrators have rejected a student government resolution to install condom machines in every campus residence hall.

Robert C. LaLance, vice president for student affairs, decided to nix the resolution approved by the Student Government Association (SGA) in October 1991.

"This has nothing to do with being prudish or backward,"

LaLance told the student newspaper, *Sidelines*.

"It was not a disagreement in subject, but in method to serve the students on health-related issues with health services," he said. "There is an appropriate place providing for this need."

The resolution stated that condom machines would provide protection from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

... AND AROUND THE NATION

"We're going to try to put it through again," said Toby Gilley, speaker of the SGA Senate. "With AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, I don't see how any measure could be enough."

Women's Resource Center presents:

Women's History Month

M
A
R
C
H

"Woman's Work is Never Done"
- Patricia Gains, Program Director YWCA

Film and discussion, refreshments

Wednesday, March 4
Board Room, MBSC - 3rd Floor
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

"Women in Developing Nations"
- Peggy Weeks, NE Department of Education

Slide presentation and discussion,
refreshments

Wednesday, March 11
Board Room, MBSC-3rd floor
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

1
9
9
2

Women's Resource Center- Open House

Videos, refreshments

Monday, March 16
WRC, MBSC, Rm. 301
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

"Assault"
- Mary Larson,
Women Against Domestic Violence Program,
YWCA

discussion, refreshments

Wednesday, March 18
Board Room, MBSC - 3rd Floor
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

The Women's Resource Center is an agency of SGUNO.



Omaha Club names Weber 'Man of the Year'

By Eric Francis

UNO Chancellor Del Weber regards being named "Man of the Year" by The Omaha Club as more of a recognition of UNO than of his personal achievements.

"When you want to recognize an institution, you don't recognize one of its deans, you don't recognize its vice chancellor, you recognize the head of the institution," Weber said.

"When I walk out into the community, I'm not just Del Weber, a citizen, I'm Del Weber, chancellor of UNO," he said.

The Omaha Club, a privately owned city club, has given its 1992 "Man of the Year" award to Weber for his continued focus on improving higher education.

The "Man of the Year" award has been a tradition of The Omaha Club since 1898 and is given for outstanding civic contributions. Past recipients are former President Gerald Ford and former Nebraska Gov. Kay Orr.

Weber credited UNO for its role in his winning the award.

"I can make all the proposals and programs I want, but without the people who actually do the work (it) wouldn't amount to anything," he said.

His biggest asset is that he "actually listens to students," said Mike Farquhar, UNO's student president/regent.

"He is a visionary. I don't think UNO would have come this far without him," Farquhar said.

One of Weber's visions is to bring dormitories to the campus.

"We need to have dorms. It's simply a matter of where to put them and how to make them work financially," Weber said. "A lot of people don't even think of UNO as an option and that goes directly to the lack of dorms."

The chancellor admitted UNO could improve in some areas.

"We must do a better job of providing better access for minorities to this campus," he said. "I'll admit our track record is not very good in that respect."

Weber also sees better graduate programs and some doctoral programs within the next five years.

He said he also would like to help alleviate some of the parking problems, either through Ak-Sar-Ben or an added parking structure.

"There has been some talk about another parking structure, but we have not yet put a pad and pencil to it to figure any numbers," he said.

Weber emphasized "UNO is going to continue doing what it's been doing for 80 years plus, and that is to teach young people and to teach them very well."

Aside from the physical improvements to the campus, Weber



UNO Chancellor Del Weber was named "Man of the Year" for 1992 by The Omaha Club.

has "fostered a spirit of working together" among the staff, administration and faculty, said UNO Vice Chancellor Richard Hoover. Weber has instilled an atmosphere of integrity and trust in UNO, and that is why he is "Man of the Year," Hoover said.

Weber graduated from Midland College in Fremont, Neb. with a major in history. Upon completing his graduate and doctoral work at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he was a professor at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. After four years, Weber worked as assistant to the president of Cleveland State University in Ohio. Another four years later he

was back at Arizona State University as dean of education.

Weber applied for the job of UNO chancellor on the last day of the search and was named UNO's chancellor in 1977.

Weber has volunteered for many organizations, including United Way, and serves on numerous boards. He served as king of Ak-Sar-Ben in 1989 and was named Woodmen of the World's Outstanding Citizen in 1990.

Weber, a Columbus native, has found more of an appreciation for the quality of life in Nebraska.

"Omaha is as good a place as there is to live," he said. "There is a sense of community here."

SG UNO

Student Government is Now

accepting applications for

EXECUTIVE

TREASURER

of Student Government

Excellent opportunity to gain valuable work experience and hold a leadership position in Student Government.

Deadline to Apply: Friday March 6th (5p.m.)

Student Senate: the following seats are open:

Engineering(1) University division (1)
Education (1) Graduate class (1)

For More Information
Call 554-2620

**TO PICK UP AN APPLICATION COME TO
M.B.S.C. RM. 134**

CAREER INFORMATION DAY

GOVERNMENT

NON-PROFIT

ARTS



Children's
square
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Suicide: prevention the key

By Becky Moerl

In the early morning hours of a humid July day in 1983, Senior Airman David J. Busshart, 24, bled to death beside his car parked along a rural Nebraska farm field. Believing his girlfriend jilted him and the U.S. Air Force was thwarting his attempts to transfer to a different career field, Busshart was observed in a despondent mood, fondling his hunting rifle in the hours before his death.

Normally a teetotaler, the lean, young Busshart also consumed more than a couple of beers before driving alone to a random spot down a quiet road near his duty base, an Elkhorn communications detachment.

The Douglas County Sheriff's office said a farmer found Busshart with a bullet through his head. Evidence collected at the scene included letters Busshart addressed to his parents and girlfriend.

Busshart was buried in his hometown of Depew, N.Y.

Because suicide is the second leading cause of death for Nebraskans ages 18-24, Busshart's case is not unique.

"Four out of five of these deaths involve males," said Mark Miller, health data coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Health.

And the suicide rate for traditional college-age adults rose in the state from 23 such deaths in each of the years 1988 and 1989, to 37 deaths in 1990, according to Miller. The primary cause of death for this age group was accidents, with 69 reported for 1990.

Medical literature indicates that although females attempt suicide more often than males, men are more likely to die because they choose more lethal methods.

UNO Health Services assisted in the referral of several potential suicide cases within the last year, according to Nurse Supervisor Ruth Hanon. But it is the UNO Counseling Center in the Eppley Administration Building that offers the best on-campus help for troubled people.

More than 1,700 hours of personal counseling were provided in 1991, according to Counselor and Instructor Mari Rosen-Atherton.

"Fortunately, we haven't had many actual suicides as we've been able to get people help," Rosen-Atherton said.

Four full-time counselors and four graduate students from the education counseling field offer confidential personal, academic and vocational counseling at the UNO Counseling Center. Services are free for UNO students, faculty and staff.

Rosen-Atherton said suicide involves many issues.

"There's not a single factor that contributes to it, but there may be a precipitating event," she said. Typical factors related to suicidal behavior include anxiety over school work or a heavy academic or occupational program, concern over a love affair, and depression, according to Rosen-Atherton. "It may be someone who is unable to cope with a given situation and has a sense of hopelessness."

The late Busshart's friend, Kathy Lundin Miller, said she remembers good things about him, including his sense of humor.

"What stands out most was his desire to make people smile, but I think he couldn't let life be imperfect," said Miller, a former UNO student.

Miller also lost her brother, Larry Lundin, to suicide. Lundin was a 23-year-old college student when he shot himself to death in his parents' rural home near Wayne. While Miller recalls her parents receiving support from friends, the rest of the family received few cards and flowers.

"Siblings don't get the same recognition of the loss," Miller said of her brother's death.

Even though she received a counseling degree from Wayne State College in 1982, Lundin's mother, Helen, still recalls her difficulty in coping with the overwhelming grief she felt at the time her son died.

"I got the least help from those I knew with the most training," Mrs. Lundin said. "It was those who had been there who could understand, because it's a whole different ball game when you have to go through it yourself."

Larry may have been depressed because he couldn't find the right person to marry and was struggling to choose from many career options, speculates Mrs. Lundin. She recalls her son, a computer science major, experiencing mood swings. In a personal journal found after his death, he had written, "Why am I so sensitive — it hurts."

Mrs. Lundin said she and her late husband benefited from attending meetings of Compassionate Friends, a group for parents who are coping with a child's death. Her daughter talked



—Kathy Lundin Miller

The late Dave Busshart, left, with reporter Becky Moerl. Busshart committed suicide July 18, 1983.

with a friend who is a counselor.

"I highly encourage anyone facing this to see someone to talk to because grief affects so many areas of your life," Miller said.

Family and friends of those who have committed suicide also can receive help through another local support group. Survivors of Suicide meets once monthly at an Omaha church, said co-facilitator Fred Henninger.

"We're a group of lay people who have been heavily impacted by suicide," he said.

For information about meetings, Henninger said people should call 554-4616.

But how can suicide statistics like David Busshart and Larry Lundin be prevented?

"It's important for friends of potentially suicidal people not to take suicide lightly," Rosen-Atherton said. "Listen, avoid criticism and encourage the person to get professional help." The UNO Counseling Center, located in Eppley 115, can be reached by calling 554-2409.

The 24-hour telephone numbers of The Crisis Line, Inc. are 341-9111 and 341-9112. The numbers are also printed on the inside front cover of U.S. West telephone directories. UNO Criminal Justice Professor Gaylon Kuchel is executive director of the private, non-profit organization recognized by the United Way.

Kuchel said about 30 volunteers have calls forwarded to their homes in four- to six-hour shifts. The volunteers receive eight to 12 hours of training from Omaha psychologist Steven D. Sherrets. More than 1,300 calls per month are received by anonymous volunteers who use code names.

"Our job is to listen, question and refer," said "Deanne," operations supervisor.

"We need more volunteers," Kuchel said. "The number of calls increased during and following Operation Desert Storm."

The Crisis Unit at Douglas County Hospital also helps people in personal crisis situations.

"We most often see people with problems related to drugs and a dysfunctional living style," said Dianne Affleck, R.N.

"The thing to do with a potential suicide is to ask if they are feeling like hurting themselves and if they have a plan for this," Affleck said. People in crisis or their friends and family can call the County Crisis Line, 444-6400, or other hospital emergency rooms for help.

Newsweek columnist Anne-Grace Scheinn once wrote about the torment her mother's suicide caused others. "Suicide doesn't end pain," Scheinn wrote. "It only lays it on the broken shoulders of those left behind."

Suicide: A personal view of destruction

By Becky Moerl

Editor's Note: This article contains the opinion of the author.

It has been nearly nine years since my boyfriend, David Busshart, chose to die by his own hand. I feel like I can talk about it now.

In his last letter to me, apparently written just moments before he pulled the trigger and died, David told me to think of good memories of our time together whenever I am lonely. The trouble is, David didn't give us enough time to make much of a history to remember. He chose not to weather his last storm with me.

Remembering David and what might have been is a painful fog these days. My life has gone on in 1,000 ways in various directions. The only people who probably still feel more grief than I do are David's family. But my pain is different because I carry guilt knowing that David told me he was going to shoot himself and I didn't believe him. My advice to him that final night was to go home and get some sleep.

When David was happy, he was the guy everybody liked to be around, everybody's buddy. But when David was moody, he sort of disappeared. He stood me up once too often for a date, and I decided to have dinner with a neighbor on the night he died.

I was tired the evening of July 18, 1983. Nebraska baked that week in stifling days of temperatures consistently over 100 degrees. Everybody felt drained by the suffocating humidity.

In addition to working full-time, I was studying to become a certified Emergency Medical Technician. In fact, our class had studied appropriate ways of dealing with people in personal crisis. I thought suicide might affect some abstract person I would encounter on the job, not threaten someone I already knew and loved.

David was waiting for me when I returned home. He told me he was upset and thought I didn't care for him because I allowed someone else to take me to a restaurant. He and I exchanged some words, and I recall the tires of his car screeching as he swore out the window at me when he left my house. But we had argued before — we had a passion for both loving and fighting.

Always before, things would blow over. But the next morning I learned that David and I would never share another hour together. We couldn't take back the heated words, and I lost the opportunity to tell him what was truly important.

In retrospect, of course, everything made sense. David gave away some of his favorite things the month before he died — his aquarium, souvenirs from overseas, his camera. Little seemed to be going his way at work. He was also still adjusting to life back in the States after serving a tour of military duty in South Korea.

Because I hadn't recognized the seriousness of David's problems, I accepted a lot of blame and anger from some family members and his best friend. Because of this and the fact that David was buried in upstate New York, I didn't get to go to his funeral. I also endured interrogation from some less-than-charming Air Force special agents, as David was active duty military.

I don't know if I could have prevented David's death, but I will always regret that I didn't know enough to try or notify someone who would have been able to help.

I didn't know David stored his hunting rifle in the trunk of his car, and I didn't know he had been drinking the night he died. Perhaps the trouble was that I didn't really know him well enough, even though we had talked of marriage.

He was a compassionate person, and I recall how

See Suicide, page 7

Gene mapping tough job

By Christine Johnson

The Human Genome Project is a 15-year worldwide cooperative venture to "map and sequence the entire human genetic makeup," said Rebecca Anderson, genetic counselor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

"Its purpose is to find all the genes in the body, where they're located, and what each one does," she said.

Although there are 50,000 to 100,000 pairs of genes in the body, "99 percent are the same from person to person." The focus of the project is on the genes which cause disease, growth, eye color and other inherited traits, she said.

Anderson said after the research is complete, the information will be used by physicians and other professionals in order to better diagnose genetic diseases and treat them before damage is done.

The information also will help to "gain a better understanding of the evolutionary effect and human prehistory." She said this can be done by comparing human genetic maps to those of other animals, such as the ape.

"In the future, there is even the possibility of replacing certain defective genes for a limited number of genetic disorders and diseases," Anderson said.

While Anderson said she is not aware of any funds at the Med. Center for the Human Genome Project research, the

Med Center is doing some gene sequencing (gene mapping).

"Even though the United States Department of Health and the Department of Energy funds the project (\$200 million per year), it is a worldwide effort, and individual countries and private industries stand to gain because they retain the rights to any discovery they make," she said.

Because of many questions dealing with the legal, ethical and social ramifications, Anderson said three percent of the funds go toward researching these aspects.

There is also a concern that a new kind of warfare will be designed or that the information "will be used in terroristic ways," Anderson said.

Another concern is people being able to choose their baby's eye and hair color, intelligence level and other inherited

traits.

"This is not possible," Anderson said. "It is totally discarded as a realistic option since these traits are polygenic (take more than one gene)."

Even with these concerns, Anderson said she believes the gains outweigh the losses.

"It's not intrinsically more dangerous than any other field of study. If we have the technology and means to do this research, it behooves us to.

"We'll have the ability to relieve immense suffering."

"We'll have the ability to relieve immense suffering."

—Rebecca Anderson, genetic counselor

From Suicide, page 6

one time he came to the aid of a critically injured traffic victim. David was the kind of guy who once insisted on mowing the lawn for my elderly and infirm grandmother. There is even a story that one winter David gave away his coat and gloves to a cold Korean child.

Photography brought David and many people he took pictures of a lot of joy.

He also had a hunting dog named Bob that he used to dress up in a bright bandana. And I remember the happy times he surprised me with flowers and love letters for no particular reason.

But the way I always want to remember David is on the day when we went to a party at a cabin near the banks of the Elkhorn River. It was early summer, and we sat as the tree tops rustled overhead, cicadas chirped and the river glistened in the sunset.

There was a group of us kidding him about his New York accent, and I remember David laughing and ribbing all of us, too.

I want to remember David daydreaming about his future. And I want to remember the David that would have wanted me to tell others not to choose to die too young, before dreams can take root and blossom.

David chose what he termed eternal sleep, but the rest of us are still here wondering why he wanted to throw away his hand and quit in the middle of the game.

David's emotional pain ended, but he can no longer share any of life's joys with us, either. A day of misperceptions could have been rectified.

I lost part of my future when David died. My friend and former roommate, Kathy Lundin Miller, probably sums up my feelings best when she talks about her brother's suicide ... "He owned part of us by his existence."

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ON THE TOWN SPECIAL

Les Paul still knows how to rock and roll

By Eric Johnson

Musicians may know about Les Paul guitars and a few of the other things he has created, but most people in this generation probably do not know how important Les Paul has been to the music world.

To put it simply, if Paul had not been interested in electronics at an early age, the history of modern music would be very different. Paul is the man who came up with multi-track recording, early solid-body electric guitars, reverb pedals—the list could go on for pages.

The man is very fond of all the gadgets he has invented, but said he doesn't feel they're always being used right. "There's some that use 'em and some that abuse 'em," Paul said in a phone interview.

At 76, Paul isn't some old man who invents things. He is still one of the best and most influential guitarists around. He is known and loved by almost everyone in the music business.

It is not unusual to see a mix of popular musicians, such as Bob Dylan and Slash from Guns 'N' Roses, when Paul plays at Fat Tuesdays in New York City on Monday and Tuesday nights.

"I enjoy them as much as they enjoy me," Paul said. "I think I'm a rocker at heart, determined to stay young for as long as I can."

Rock 'n' roll hadn't even been invented when Paul began his musical career in earnest in the early '40s. He was looking for a female singer for a hillbilly show when he ran into singer Gene Autry outside the NBC studios in Hollywood. Autry suggested a young girl named Colleen Summers.

Summers did some shows with Paul, during which he nicknamed her Mary Lou. The two began a romance that eventually led to marriage. Paul kept her first name and looked through the phone

book for a last name. He settled on Ford.

Les Paul and Mary Ford were one of the hottest recording acts from the late '40s to the mid-'60s, when they retired. Their career peaked in 1953 with the song "Vaya Con Dios." Their biggest hit of all was "How High the Moon," which became the duo's trademark song. "It took me one year to convince Capitol Records to release that song," Paul recalled.

In 1941, Paul built his first solid-body electric guitar. He worked on it during weekends at the Epiphone factory in New York City. Called "The Log," this first model was nothing more than a 4 by 4 board with an Epiphone guitar neck. Paul took his invention to Gibson Guitars in Chicago, but the company wasn't interested.

It took the help of a friend to get electric guitars off the ground. Leo Fender was interested in what Paul was doing and decided to build his own guitar. Paul helped him with suggestions and did some trouble-shooting. The result was the famous Fender Telecaster. Gibson Guitars became interested in Paul's original design.

While electric guitars were the wave of the future, Paul still had trouble convincing people in the music industry.

"I had a battle with the electric guitar. The purists would look down on it and the union wouldn't recognize it as a different instrument," he said.

Paul went on to popularize electric guitars and invent things, like tremolo systems and synthesizers, years before they became practical tools in music. He also invented the eight-track recorder and began multi-tracking music before anyone else.

Before retiring, Paul and Ford had been doing radio and television shows along with a regular touring schedule for years. Paul said they should have paced themselves, but he doesn't regret all those years of hard work.

"I've written so many songs I can't remember them all," he said.

One thing he said he wishes he could have done was to have played with the late Jimi Hendrix. The two crossed paths in 1962 when Paul was working for a record company. He went into a bar on his way home and saw a young black man playing a Les Paul Black Beauty left-handed. What he heard was impressive.

Paul went home to eat and went back to the club later that night. The young guitarist was gone.

"I asked the bartender what happened to the guy that was playing earlier and he said they kicked him out. He said the guy was playing too loud and was too wild," Paul said.

He continued to search for the young guitarist, but couldn't find him. Paul's manager heard a rumor the young man died in a fire started by a cigarette. Two years later, Paul saw the young man again on the cover of the first Jimi Hendrix album. The two became good friends.

"Hendrix would call over from Electric Ladyland every once in a while and ask me how I got some of the sounds on my records," Paul remembered.

Paul quit playing guitar early in 1965 when he began working for record companies. He didn't play again until 1980, after he had quintuple bypass heart surgery. The doctor suggested he go back to work.

Currently, Paul is building a recording studio in his New Jersey home and working on a new guitar.

"I'm working on the finest guitar anyone has laid their hands on," Paul proclaimed, though he isn't letting out any secrets.

He also has finished work on a four-CD box set that covers his career with Ford. Even though the music is more than 40 years old, it sounds as crisp as ever. As for Paul, he's working just as hard as ever, but doesn't see himself as a legend.

"I've left 'em some to stop play with and they're havin' fun with 'em," he said happily.

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DIET PEPSI

SPORTS

Mavericks end season with two road kills

By Daren Schrat

The UNO Maverick basketball team ended its regular season on a winning note by defeating the North Dakota Sioux on Friday night and the North Dakota State Bison Saturday night.

The Mavs have won three of their last four games.

"We hoped we gained some momentum. We played really well together," UNO Head Coach Bob Hanson said.

Against North Dakota the Mavs silenced a crowd of 3,784 at Hyslop Sports Center with 53.8 percent shooting and a 26-point, 10-rebound performance from Phil "Hoss" Cartwright. In comparison, the Mavs shot only 35.8 percent last week against Morningside.

"We shot the ball well this week. Shooting has been our biggest nemesis. We had missed a lot of easy shots," Hanson said.

The Mavs had a tough time with the Sioux in the first half, as Marcus Coty hit four three-point baskets. The Mavs, however, were ahead 39-30 at intermission.

The Sioux cut the Mavs' lead 43-38 to awaken the silent crowd. The Mavs regrouped and outscored the Sioux 16-3 to maintain the lead they had established in the first two minutes of the game.

"Our transition defense worked pretty good. We ran a 25-minute zone against them," Hanson said.

North Dakota shot only 39.7 percent from the floor.

The Mavs got 17 points and nine rebounds from Ray Howard and 15 points and five assists from Thad Mott.

Hanson had praise for his team's ability to score from the inside.

"We scored 57 of our points inside the paint," he said.

North Dakota's loss was only their second at home since a 1988 loss to the Mavs.

"We played together and played hard. We eliminated their transitional game and putbacks

on the offensive rebounds," Hanson said.

The Mavs looked to complete a two-game road sweep of the North Dakota teams against the North Dakota State Bison Saturday night.

After a slow start, the Mavs got their offensive machine rolling in the second half to pulverize the Bison 82-68.

In the first half, North Dakota State erased a six-point UNO lead with a 10-0 scoring run to take the lead. The Mavs took the lead briefly with a three-pointer by Ryan Elrod.

The Mavs had early foul trouble and the Bison capitalized by hitting 13 of 17 shots from the free throw line.

A three-pointer by Ron Walker put UNO ahead to stay as the Mavs took a 39-36 lead into halftime.

The Mavs' offense exploded in the second half. The Mavs reeled off 13 straight points and the Bison did not score a basket for five and one-half minutes. When the Bison finally scored, the Mavs responded with a 15-point burst to conclude a 32-6 scoring run.

The Mavs were ahead 71-42 and Hanson was able to let everyone play.

"We had talked about trying to give them some playing time. We want them in," Hanson said.

The Mavs had five players in double scoring figures. Cartwright led the Mavs with 17 points and 19 rebounds. Howard and Elrod each had 12 points, while Mike Conley and Mott finished with 10 points each.

"They gained confidence and they had fun," Hanson said of his players.

The Mavs finished the season with a 15-12 record and a fifth-place tie in the North Central Conference (NCC) with Mankato State. The Mavs' conference record is 9-9.

The Mavs face St. Cloud State on Wednesday in the first round of the NCC tournament.

Hanson said he is not too concerned about who the Mavs play.

"How we're playing is more important than who we're playing," he said.



— Ed Carlson

Mavericks Sven Bonde, left, and Thad Mott surround North Dakota's Scott Guldseth, No. 32. The Mavs defeated the Sioux 83-74 Friday.



— Ed Carlson

UNO Lady Mav Linda Schabloske zeros in on her opponent. The Lady Mavs play West Texas at the UNO fieldhouse Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Lady Mavs rally to stun North Dakota

By Daren Schrat

The UNO Lady Maverick basketball team almost swept the North Dakota Sioux and North Dakota State Bison in their road trip last weekend. Almost.

The Lady Mavs overcame a five-point deficit in the last four minutes to upset sixth-ranked North Dakota 59-58. Kim Priest's three-point field goal with 21 seconds left was the difference between victory and defeat.

"Our kids yanked their hearts out of their chests and put them on the basketball court," UNO Head Coach Cherri Mankenberg said.

The leading scorer for the Sioux, Jenny Walter, finished with just four points.

"Aimee Noel held her scoreless in the first half," Mankenberg said. "She is just starting to get to her potential."

The Lady Mavs led the Sioux 28-22 at halftime, but their lead diminished until Roxanne Wiles tied the game at 56 with a minute and a half left.

"Wiles, Tricia Floyd, Priest, and Lisa Rath did a good job hitting the outside shot," Mankenberg said.

The Lady Mavs' scoring was led by Wiles' 18 points, followed by 16 from Floyd, and 11 points and 10 rebounds by Priest.

The Lady Mavs traveled to Fargo, N.D., looking to unseat top-ranked North Dakota State.

The Bison had to stave off a comeback attempt after holding a 10-point halftime lead. The Lady Mavs reduced North Dakota State's lead to a basket after Floyd sank a pair of free throws.

The Bison scored an insurance basket and relied on their defense to escape 64-61.

The loss put the Lady Mavs' record at 19-7, 11-6 in the North Central Conference (NCC).

Although the Lady Mavs split their road games, Mankenberg said she was pleased with how her team played.

"I had 15 complements, from the opposition, in walking out of that fieldhouse. Our kids did proud," she said.

The Lady Mavs' scoring was led by Sandy Skradski's 19 points and 10 rebounds. Priest and Floyd each had 10 points.

The Bison at 24-2, 15-1 in the conference, retained their No. 1 Division II rating and the respect of Mankenberg.

"They have had some quality teams, so our kids made a great showing," she said.

The Lady Mavs have two remaining games on their schedule and hope for postseason play.

"This has been a very important week for us," she said. "We're in fourth place and the conference should put its top four teams in the playoffs."

The Lady Mavs will play 13th-ranked West Texas Tuesday at the fieldhouse. West Texas has been ranked as high as sixth this year.

"We're going to have our hands full, but it will be a great game," Mankenberg said.

The Lady Mavs will conclude their regular season on the road against 2-24 Northern Colorado. Mankenberg said her team will not underestimate the Bears.

"This boils down to what we've been working for all year.

"You have to walk in and try and take over the place," she said.

SPORTS

UNO baseball team revamped for spring

By Daren Schrat

Yes, baseball is back.

When the UNO Maverick baseball season starts March 5, there will be some obvious changes.

After a disastrous 7-29 record last year, Head Coach Bob Gates decided he had to rearrange his ballclub.

"Last year, I was hoping we would come somewhere near 50-50. I knew we didn't have the overall talent; I was overly optimistic. But 7-29, I sure didn't expect that," he said.

The Mavericks return only one starter from last year, first baseman Jeff Gordon.

Steve Paup and Cory Ersamer are the two returnees on the pitching staff that is under Gates' question.

"You wonder how good is the control of the pitchers, which were pretty wild in the fall. I'm not worried about our pitchers getting hit, I want them to get the ball over the plate so we have a chance to field it," he said.

Gates said there are 14 pitchers competing for six openings in the starting rotation. Gates said he was pleased how the pitchers have worked in drills to improve defense, and have been working against balks and responding to bunts.

"They show a lot of potential. If we can get it out of them and get the control that they need I think we're going to find six kids that can come along and pitch for us," he said.

Gates said the Mavs have worked extra at batting.

"I think we'll come up with a few home runs, but I always tell them I don't care if they ever hit a home run," he said. "We're working really hard on our hitting to get some good productive hits."

The Mavs will have a new infield, with the exception of Gordon at first. The Mavs have moved three-year starting shortstop Matt Picchota to left field. Four of the six infield-

ers are freshmen.

Of the 28 players on the team's roster, 16 are freshmen.

Third-base duties will be shared between two freshmen, Tim Hallett and Chris Irsfeld. Gates said Irsfeld also will back up Gordon at first.

At shortstop, two other freshmen — Mike Sullivan and Bill Ryan — will replace Picchota. Gates said Ryan can play second base as well.

"Bill Ryan will be starting some games," he said.

The regular second baseman is junior Jay Maia.

Gates said his team has its most depth at catcher. Junior college transfer Bill Dropinski is expected by Gates to be the everyday catcher.

Gates said Dropinski is the most versatile player on the team. Dropinski is slated to pitch in relief.

Tim Meyer and freshman Marty Merrill complete the catching trio. Meyer will be the designated hitter when he is not penciled in at catcher.

Gates said there are six outfielders competing for two starting roles.

He said he anticipates success in 1992.

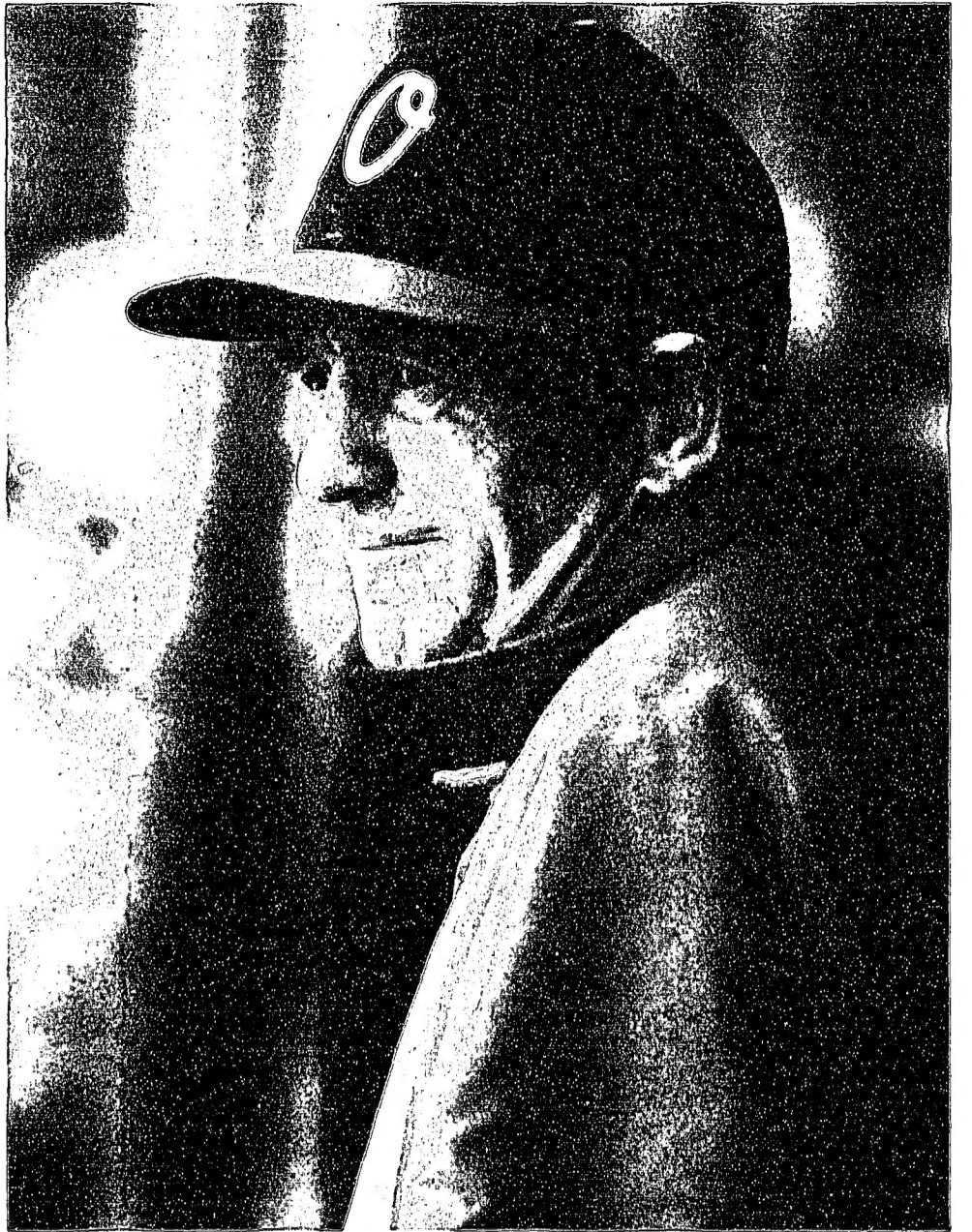
"I know we're going to be a better ballclub than we've been in five years."

Gates said his players have put in extra hours in preparing for the season feels their dedication is their best asset.

"We got a few hard-nosed kids that feel we can win. I think these kids feel they can win and beat anybody," he said.

Gates said St. Cloud State, North Dakota and Mankato State appear to be the strongest teams in the Northern Division, and South Dakota in the Southern. The Mavs are in the Southern Division of the North Central Conference.

"I'll be disappointed if we don't go beyond having a winning season. We've worked hard and I think it will all pay off."



—File Photo

UNO Head Baseball Coach Bob Gates. "We've got a few hard-nosed kids that feel we can win and beat anybody."

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Mixed leagues can get mixed up

It was one of those weekends.

The mercury rose above the 60-degree mark, causing many to shed their winter inhibitions and clothing and embark upon the great outdoors.

This ritual is a tradition of late winter, and the glory of an early spring is often quickly dashed with a March snowstorm.

Nevertheless, the warm weather last weekend brought the sound of cracking bats and the scent of dirt and leather in my mind. Yes, I reveled, softball season is just around the corner.

Mixed softball leagues are forming faster than you can say, "Play ball," and I wouldn't have it any other way.

I used to hate playing in mixed leagues, because I considered some of the rules surrounding the game unfair and discriminatory. I couldn't understand why the batting order and field positions had to alternate sexes. Most of the girls on my team were better than the guys, I thought, so why couldn't equality prevail? I held true to that belief — until last season.

Last spring, a relative enlisted my help on a team filled with members from all walks of life. This amalgamation of talent featured teenagers, housewives and middle-aged men who kept luck-gathering memorabilia such as unaffixed toenails in their gloves.

Because of the diversity of the squad, the coach felt our team would stack up more adequately with teams of lesser talent — hence the "D" league.

I had never played on a "D" league team before, and had previously harbored tainted images of what the experience would entail.

Teams in the "D" league, I thought, didn't own their own equipment, and played with broomsticks and wadded-up balls of socks. And there's no way they'd let a "D" team play on a real softball field. A team member would have to

THE RIGHT CALL BY LIZ MERRILL

surrender his yard for an hour or two and find some stray trash to use for bases.

Unfortunately, some of my misconceptions of the "D" league rang true to life. Although we played on real softball fields with real equipment, some of the competition we faced seemed unreal.

As the season progressed, it appeared obvious some of the opposing teams scraped the bottom of the barrel to find female players.

I know that the game is played for fun and that everyone who wants to play should get a chance, but I firmly believe

most of the women on the opposing teams we faced were coerced into playing.

How else can you explain the 67-year-old first baseman who tagged runners out with her purse? Or how about the outfielder who ran the opposite direction whenever the ball headed her way?

I thought I had seen it all, until one hot June day when I peered into the outfield and spotted the unthinkable — a left fielder wearing a dress. She seemed dismayed when the umpire requested that, for safety's sake, she shed her accessories. If the dangers of dangling earrings seemed detrimental, imagine the pain of a three-inch spike heel gouging into a second baseman after a crucial slide.

No doubt about it, these women were coerced into playing, and this realization gave me a new-found understanding.

I imagined the horrific consequences of not having these women alternate field positions and batting orders with the men. There would be a three-way tug-of-war between the purse holder, the dress-wearer and the woman afraid of the ball around the bases.

Someone surely would get hurt, or at least lose a toenail.

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Tarkanian rescinding his March resignation

LAS VEGAS (CPS) — Jerry Tarkanian is giving new meaning to the phrase "going out with a bang."

The University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV) men's basketball coach, scheduled to step down March 3, says he is rescinding his resignation. Tarkanian announced the latest in the ongoing soap opera after a two-and-a-half hour rally Feb. 23.

In a written statement, Tarkanian said he was tired of watching himself, his staff, his family and his former players "trashed again and again by a series of untruths, distortions and inaccuracies."

Tarkanian's resignation last June came about after a newspaper ran a photo of three former Runnin' Rebel players sitting in a hot tub with convicted sports fixer Richard Perry.

The controversy surrounding the resignation served to highlight a sparring match between the coach and UNLV president Robert Maxson, who accepted the resignation and said he has no intention of allowing Tarkanian back on the court after March 3, his last scheduled game as a UNLV coach.

"There is a state statute in Nevada that says you have only three days to take back a resignation," said Joe Hawk, UNLV sports information director. "Maxson is the only person who can legally allow (Tarkanian) to rescind his resignation. He has no plans to do that."

Tarkanian's attorneys claim, however, a binding agreement between Tarkanian and Maxson said neither side would "bad-mouth" the other has been violated by UNLV administration.

The attorneys said administrators intentionally leaked problems within the program to the press and such a move violated the agreement, giving Tarkanian the legal option to rescind the resignation.

Those violations include 29 alleged National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) infractions currently under investigation. In addition, the *Las Vegas Review Journal* has reported the FBI and the federal Organized Crime Task Force are investigating point-shaving allegations against last year's team.

This year's basketball team has been banned from television and postseason play as a final resolution of a 14-year fight between the NCAA and Tarkanian.

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST

The physical therapist works to restore function, strengthen muscles and relieve pain in patients of all ages who are ill, injured or disabled. The demand is predicted to rise 87 percent by the year 2000.

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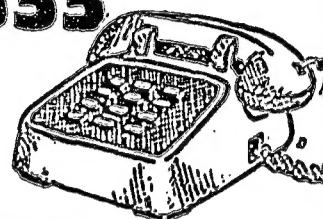
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Bookstore	62
Campus Radio KBLZ	56
Campus Recreation	30
Career Development	13
Career Placement	28
Cashiering-Student Act	4
CPAR	63
Child Care Center	68
College of Arts & Sciences	36
College of Business Administration	29
College of Education	43
College of Public Affairs & Community Service	33
Counseling Services	11
Early Entry Program	38
Electronic Engineering Technology	6
English	69
Fashion Design at UNO	25
Fashion Merchandise at UNO	26
Field of Speech/Language Pathology	66
Fine Arts College	5
Foreign Languages	34
Goodrich	59
Greek Life on Campus	49
Hearing Impairment Program	50
Hispanic Student Organization	47
HPER	61
Honors Program	1
Housing, Students	52
Human Development & Family	22
Intercollegiate Athletics	8
Interior Design - Textile Clothing & Design	24
International Studies & Programs	65
KBLZ	56
Learning & Center	60
Math Lab	57
Native American Students Association	48
Now Start at UNO	41
Non-Credit Programs	20
Nursing & Allied Health	39
Off Campus Credit Programs	18
Orientation	17
Outdoor Venture Center	31
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Visitors Parking	14
Women's Resource Center	2